GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4984
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
DECLINE IN FERTILITY OF SOIL
RAM SHAKAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the decline in fertility of soil due to pollution as also annual loss of foodgrains in the country due to damage of crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where damage of foodgrains is reported to be maximum; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle this problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b): Studies under All India Coordinated Research Project of Indian Council of Agriculture Research on "long-term fertilizer experiments" over the last few decades indicate that if nitrogenous fertilizers alone are used in excessive quantities, there may be decline in crop yields and it may also have deleterious effect on long-term fertility of soils. To ensure that there is no ill-effect of any kind due to excessive use of fertilizers, the government propagates use of fertilizers based on soil tests.

There is no quantitative estimate available to indicate the loss of crop yields due to soil pollution.

(c): The Govt. advocates enhanced use of compost, Farm yard manure (fym),manure, green manuring and bio-fertilizers in order to sustain fertility of the soils and reduce exclusive use of chemical fertilizers.